Chara COMICS

眠れる月

1

宮本佳野

徳間書店

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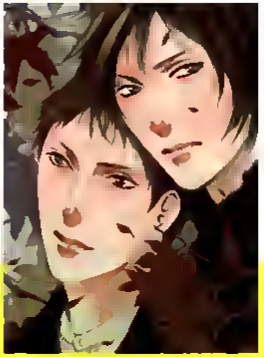

CHARA COMICS

僕はもうすぐ死んでしまうんだろうか……？
直系男子だけが早死にする「呪い」の謎を解くため故郷を訪れた明彦。ところがある晩、百年前にタイムスリップ!! 同じ謎を調べる明治時代の書生・栄太郎に出会い…!? 過去と現在、二人の男が時を超えて一族の秘密に迫る!!
和風ミステリーロマンス、堂々の開幕!!

眠れる月

1

ネムレルツキ

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眠れる月

1

ホムレルツキ

KAHO MIYAMOTO PRESENTS

Liquid Passion
http://kuchi.the-arena.net/forum.com
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Midnight Kaoss

Sleeping Moon

Chapter 1

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Crayonforpants,
& Zita

The long-awaited new series is finally starting!!
Sleeping Moon
KANOMIYAMOTO PRESE
I HEARD YOU'RE PLANNING TO GO BACK TO YOUR HOMETOWN FOR A BIT.
RIGHT, ODAGAWA-KUN?
YES.
I'M HEADING OVER NEXT WEEK, AND WILL STAY FOR ABOUT A MONTH.
DOES IT HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH YOUR RESEARCH?
IT SEEMS ODD THAT YOU'RE TAKING LEAVE FROM UNIVERSITY, ESPECIALLY FOR THIS
WELL, YEAH...
I THINK I MIGHT JUST STUMBLE ACROSS SOMETHING USEFUL WHILE I'M THERE
I SEE.
WELL, TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.
I WILL, SENSEI. I'LL SEND YOU AN E-MAIL WHEN I GET THERE.
STEP

What is the true identity of the mysterious young man that crossed through time to arrive here...?
The triumphant start of a Japanese-style time skip romance!!
KANOMIYAMOTO PRESENTS
35 PAGES LONG, OPENING PAGES IN COLOUR
宮本佳野
A re-occurring dream of his father's hometown...
In order to get to the bottom of this puzzle,
He returns to his old "home" for the first time in seventeen years, and there he meets...!?
眠れる月
Sleeping Moon
MIYAMOTO KANO's Chara comics
"Rules" complete in 3 volumes * Following the romances of a group of four young men!
"Night Walker" * A "siren" warns of impending danger to his beloved - Thrilling Love♥
"Flowers" * Pursued by more than one neighbour from the apartment block...!? Sexual Love♥

I'M
BACK...
SO THIS IS IT, HUH...?

PHEW...
THAT WAS A LONG WALK...
Sigh
THEY SAID SOMEONE WOULD COME PICK ME UP, BUT NO ONE SHOWED...
I NEVER WOULD'VE THOUGHT IT'D BE AN HOUR AND A HALF'S WALK FROM THE STATION. THAT'S RIDICULOUS!
Pant
Roll

DEAR ME, IS THAT YOU, AKIHIKO-SAN!?
PANT
HI, AUNTIE AKIKO IT'S BEEN A WHILE, HASN'T IT?
I SENT MY SON TO PICK YOU UP FROM THE STATION
OH, WHERE'S REN?
IT CERTAINLY HAS. I WONDER HOW MANY YEARS IT'S BEEN SINCE I LAST SAW YOU
SORRY?

HUH? DID HE GO TO THE WRONG PLACE?
I DIDN'T SEE ANYONE WAITING FOR ME
WELL, I AM SORRY... HONESTLY, THAT BOY...
ANYWAY, PLEASE DO COME IN AND MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME
THANKS A LOT
Here's a souvenir
Tokyo
WOW!
THIS PLACE IS JUST AS BIG AS I REMEMBER. I BET IT'S HARD WORK KEEPING IT CLEAN, THOUGH.
OH, MOST OF THESE ROOMS AREN'T EVEN USED.
WHEN WERE YOU LAST HERE? FIFTEEN YEARS AGO, RIGHT?
SEVENTEEN, ACTUALLY. I HAVEN'T BEEN HERE SINCE THE FUNERAL WHEN I WAS TEN
MY GOODNESS, HAS IT REALLY BEEN THAT LONG?
SO THAT "REN" YOU MENTIONED MUST BE THE MALE HALF OF THE TWINS, THEN?
YES. HE'S ALREADY AT UNIVERSITY NOW
HE IS!?
Oh yes

HM...
MY FATHER'S FAMILY, THE SAKAIS, ESTABLISHED THEMSELVES IN THIS AREA AS WEALTHY FARMERS.
MY FATHER MOVED OUT EARLY, GOT MARRIED TO MY MOTHER AND WAS TAKEN IN BY HER FAMILY.
I DID COME HERE ONCE WHEN I WAS LITTLE, BUT ...
I'D LIKE TO PAY MY RESPECTS TO GRANDFATHER AND GRANDMOTHER.
OH, IF YOU DON'T MIND, COULD I SEE THE BUTSUDAN?
FATHER HATED THIS HOUSE, AND ALMOST NEVER VISITED.
HELLO, MOM. HELLO, DAD.
YOUR UNCARING GRANDCHILD FROM TOKYO'S HERE TO SEE YOU.
EVEN THOUGH I WAS JUST A CHILD THEN, I REMEMBER THIS PLACE CLEARLY
HEY, HEY, AUNTIE...
OF COURSE, YOU CAN. IT'S THIS WAY

T/N: Small Buddhist altar kept in homes to remember deceased relatives.

...AKIHIKO-SAN
I REMEMBER IT FILLED ME WITH A NAMELESS FEAR
YES?
WON'T YOU TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON?
I CAN'T IMAGINE WHY YOU'D WANT TO COME STAY HERE IN THIS REMOTE COUNTRYSIDE...
IT'S JUST THAT TOMOHIKO-NIISAN...
YOUR FATHER, HE HATED THIS PLACE. DIDN'T HE? THAT'S WHY...
IT'S ALREADY BEEN FIFTEEN YEARS SINCE MY DAD DIED
...AND ANYWAY, ALL OF THAT'S JUST SUPERSTITION
...WELL, OF COURSE I'M GLAD, AKIHIKO-SAN...
WHAT, AREN'T YOU HAPPY TO SEE YOUR CUTE NEPHEW?

I READ ABOUT IT IN DAD'S DIARY...
MY MOM WAS PRETTY SCARED ABOUT IT, TOO
SO YOU DO KNOW...
ABOUT "THAT"...
HOWEVER,
IT WAS IN A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT THAT COULD HAPPEN TO ANYONE, RIGHT?
IT'S TRUE THAT MY DAD DIED WHEN HE WAS ONLY THIRTY-FIVE YEARS OLD ...
I HAVE THESE DREAMS
THAT'S RIGHT
EH...?
THE THING IS, AUNTIE,
SO YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN IT?

I ALWAYS DREAM ABOUT THIS PLACE...
I DON'T REMEMBER WHEN IT STARTED.
BUT IN MY DREAM,
I ALWAYS COME BACK TO THIS HOUSE...

...?
WHICH PART OF THE HOUSE HAVE I WANDERED INTO NOW ...?
HN.
WHAT THE...?
WASN'T IT SUPPOSED TO BE A NEW MOON TONIGHT...?
Hmmm...
WHAT IS THIS FEELING ...?
THIS SENSE OF WRONG-NESS...
Creak
Creak
HM. I BET THIS IS ONE OF THOSE WAKING DREAMS CAUSED BY LACK OF R.E.M. SLEEP....

Slid
THE AIR FEELS WRONG...
THERE'S THIS STRANGE CLARITY ABOUT EVERYTHING ....
...I
A GH...

A GHOST!?
H-HUH...?
SO IT REALLY WAS A DREAM ...?
thu-dump
thu-dump
thu-dump
!
AH...ER, WHAT JUST...
...?
...

...I KNEW IT... NO MOON TONIGHT...
IT WAS ALL JUST A DREAM...

OH DEAR, AKIHIKO-SAN. YOU LOOK LIKE YOU DIDN'T GET MUCH SLEEP.
WAS THE PILLOW UNCOMFORTABLE?
NO... I JUST HAD A WEIRD DREAM AND COULDN'T GET BACK TO SLEEP AFTERWARDS.
Zzz
CHIRIN CHIRIN

A DREAM?
COME TO THINK OF IT, YOU MENTIONED HAVING DREAMS ABOUT THIS HOUSE, DIDN'T YOU?
YES.
WELL, I ASSUME IT WAS A DREAM ABOUT THIS HOUSE
THERE WAS A YOUNG MAN IN IT, STANDING ON A VERANDA-TYPE THING
A VERANDA? YOU MEAN THE TSUKIMIDAI*?
*TN: Moon-viewing platform
IS THAT WHAT IT'S CALLED? ANYWAY, I DON'T HAVE A CLUE WHO HE WAS.
THE ONLY YOUNG MAN LIVING HERE IS REN-KUN, RIGHT?
IT'S A GHOST
Eh?
REN! HURRY UP AND SIT DOWN
OH, THAT'S RIGHT. I NEVER PROPERLY INTRODUCED YOU TWO
REN, DO YOU REMEMBER YOUR COUSIN AKIHIKO?
HELLO.

OH, MY GOD, YOU'RE REN-KUN!? YOU'VE GROWN SO MUCH!
DO YOU REMEMBER ME? DO YOU? DO YOU?
I DON'T THINK HE DOES. HE WAS ONLY FOUR OR FIVE YEARS OLD AT THE TIME.
OH, YEAH, I GUESS.
...ACTUALLY... I DO REMEMBER...
REALLY? I'M SO GLAD TO HEAR THAT! Look at you... you've become so handsome!
smile smile
I REMEMBER YOU DUNKING ME IN THE POND WHEN I TRIED TO PLAY WITH YOU
D-DID I REALLY DO THAT?
...WHAT YOU SAW WAS A GHOST
EH?
WE GET A LOT OF THEM IN THIS HOUSE...
WE EVEN GET CALLED "THE HAUNTED MANSION" IN THESE PARTS
R-REALLY!?
I'VE SEEN THEM MYSELF
THEY'RE ALL OVER THE PLACE
NOW, NOW, REN...
Honestly

O-OH, COME ON...
DON'T SCARE ME LIKE THAT
...I'LL TAKE ERI HER DINNER
OH, COULD YOU? THANKS A LOT
SURE
WHO'S ERI?
Have some tea.
THE GIRL HALF OF THE TWINS
SHE'S A LITTLE SICKLY, SO SHE KEEPS HERSELF HIDDEN AWAY FROM THE MAIN HOUSE.
OH
Gulp
W-WHY IS IT
ALL THE KIDS HERE ARE KINDA CREEPY...?

Fuu...
MAN, THIS PLACE IS JUST TOO HUGE...
SEEMS A WASTE TO ONLY HAVE THREE PEOPLE LIVING IN IT...
MUTTER
MUTTER
OH,
...YEAH, THIS IS DEFINITELY IT
ISN'T THIS THE PLACE FROM YESTERDAY'S DREAM ?
EVEN THOUGH I'VE NEVER BEEN HERE BEFORE NOW...

THERE'S A CURSE THAT'S BEEN LAID ON THE SAKAKI FAMILY
A CURSE THAT AFFECTS ONLY THE MALE DESCENDANTS
MY GRANDFATHER DIED AT THIRTY. MY FATHER AT THIRTY-FIVE
WHICH LEAVES
ME NEXT IN LINE ..
Grip

I THINK IT WAS FEAR THAT DROVE MY FATHER TO LEAVE THIS PLACE
BUT THERE WAS NO ESCAPING IT.
I CHOSE TO RETURN OF MY OWN VOLITION
BECAUSE I THOUGHT AT LEAST I MIGHT BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND
WHY I HAVE TO DIE...
HM?
REN-KUN...?

I DON'T BELIEVE IN THINGS LIKE CURSES
OF COURSE. RATIONALLY SPEAKING.
WHO'S EVER HEARD OF A PREMATURE DEATH CURSE, ANYWAY?
HAAH
THIS IS THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY, ISN'T IT...?
AKIHIKO-SAN

REN-KUN
YOU'RE AN ACADEMIC, RIGHT?
MY MOTHER SAID YOU CAME HERE IN ORDER TO DO SOME RESEARCH.
YEAH
WELL, AT LEAST THAT WAS THE GENERAL IDEA...
WHAT KIND OF RESEARCH?
MORE SPECIFICALLY, THE IMPACT CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY WORK HAS HAD ON BUDDHISM IN JAPAN...
I don't want to ramble.
HMM
IN OTHER WORDS, NOT CONNECTED TO THIS PLACE IN ANY WHATSOEVER
OH, UM,
I SPECIALISE IN COMPARATIVE RELIGIOUS STUDIES.
THIS REGION NEVER HAD A CHRISTIAN DAIMYOU* OR ANYTHING, YOU KNOW.
Crap I've been found out!
YEAH... UMM...
silence
...

*T/N Feudal lord.

...AKIHIKO-SAN
YES?
YOU SHOULD LEAVE THIS PLACE
THE CURSE LIKES TO SET THE STAGE BEFORE THE SACRIFICE
YOUR COMING HERE HAS TRIGGERED ITS ACTIVATION
RETURN TO TOKYO AS SOON AS YOU CAN
HAH?
SLAM

TRIGGERED
IT'S ACTIVATION...?
THUD
!
Rake
ARGHHH, GEEZ...
WHAT THE HELL
thu-dump
thu-dump
thu-dump
THUNK

Achoo!
IS ALL THIS...?
OH NO, DID YOU CATCH A COLD?
YEAH.
IT'S A LOT COLDER HERE THAN TOKYO, ISN'T IT?
THEN, WHY DON'T YOU GO SLEEP A BIT MORE?
WELL, WHY DON'T YOU HAVE A LOOK IN THE ATTIC? THERE'S A LOT OF OLD BOOKS UP THERE...
OH, BUT THERE'S NO ELECTRICITY SO IT'LL BE A BIT COLD
SNIFFLE
SNIFFLE
...IS IT JUST ME, OR AM I STARTING TO LOSE MY SPECIAL TREATMENT, AUNTIE?
NAH. I'VE ALREADY PUT THE FUTON AWAY, AND I'VE STILL GOT FIELDWORK TO DO
FIELDWORK?
YOU KNOW, WANDERING AROUND OUTSIDE GATHERING INFORMATION FOR MY RESEARCH
OH, OKAY.

OF COURSE! YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT GUEST-STATUS RUNS OUT AFTER THREE DAYS!
COME ON, MOVE, I'M TRYING TO DO THE CLEANING HERE.
Crawl
Crawl
UUUGH!
You're evil!

* TN: Padded kimono

ACK!
Bang
CRASH
?
Tilt
HUH?
SHIT!
ARGH, YOU STUPID THINGS!
COUGH COUGH
LET'S SEE
WOW, THIS LOOKS PRETTY OLD
Pat
?
HM?
FORTIETH YEAR OF THE MEIJI ERA
WHAT IS IT...?

LOOKS LIKE THIS WAS WRITTEN BY SOMEONE WHO STAYED HERE DURING THE FINAL YEARS OF THE MEIJI ERA...
THAT'S JUST ABOUT ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO
TURN
SWEEP
IT MUST BE SOME KIND OF DIARY IT'S FULL OF DAY TO DAY EVENTS
AND HERE'S EVEN A REFERENCE TO "THE GHOST OF THE TSUKIMIDAI"
SO IT'S BEEN AROUND FOR A HUNDRED YEARS ALREADY
THEN, THAT WASN'T A DREAM AT ALL...?
IN OTHER WORDS... THE SAME GHOST THAT I SAW
HMM...

RUSTLE
MUTTER MUTTER
!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
And what are you wearing?
AH
ER, I WAS JUST DOING SOME RESEARCH UP IN THE ATTIC
UM, DID YOU JUST RETURN HOME?
RIGHT
YEAH. I'M JUST ON MY WAY TO SEE ER!
OH, YOU ARE?
CAN I COME AND SAY HELLO TO HER TOO?
HAVEN'T YOU MET HER YET?
NO
I THINK I'VE COME AT A BAD TIME SINCE SHE ISN'T FEELING WELL
SHE'S GOT A BAD HEART, DOESN'T SHE? CAN I STILL SEE HER?
HN
I DON'T THINK SHE'D WANT YOU TO SEE HER SLEEPING FACE. SHE'S AT THAT AGE, YOU KNOW?

OH... I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT...
I didn't think
YOU MAY BE COUSINS, BUT FOR HER IT'LL FEEL LIKE IT'S THE FIRST TIME SHE'S MET YOU.
WELL, I'M SURE YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SEE HER WHEN SHE'S FEELING BETTER
...REN-KUN!
YEAH...
DON'T WORRY, SHE'S NOT A WITCH OR SOME UGLY FREAK.
A...ABOUT WHAT YOU TOLD ME THE OTHER DAY...
WON'T YOU EXPLAIN IT TO ME SO I CAN UNDERSTAND WHAT IT ALL MEANS?
...ONLY IF YOU PROMISE TO GO BACK WHERE YOU CAME FROM
EH ?
WHAT, YOU MEAN LIKE "MOTHER KUDAN"*?
HEHE...
*TN: Creature born from unholy union of man and beast.

...
OH...

IT'S THIS SAME DREAM AGAIN...
NO, WAIT.
THIS ISN'T A DREAM AT ALL, IS IT?
Creak Creak
Slide
TO MEET THAT GHOST HERE AGAIN...?
Nudge
I WONDER IF I'LL BE ABLE

...!
IT'S HERE...
IT...

What is the identity of this man whose face is the spitting image of Ren!?

Chara's MEMBER 30 questions to sensei

A mixed bag of questions to analyse your favourite mangaka ♥

File No.045

宮本佳野

KANO MIYAMOTO

01. When's your birthday?
15th June.

02. What's your zodiac sign and bloodtype?
Gemini. Type B.

03. Where's your home town, and where do you live now?
My home town is Osaka; now I live in Tokyo.

04. What do you like to eat?
Vegetables and fish, sweet baked goods, bread.

05. What do you like to drink?
Black tea coffee

06. What food and drink don't you like?
I don't like meat or carbonated drinks very much

07. What's your motto?
"Don't do today what you can put off until tomorrow"

08. Do you believe in aliens?
I believe they exist, but I don't think they've come here to Earth.

09. Which musician do you like?
Royscopp Dalerium

10. What books do you like?
Stephen King, Edgar Allan Poe, Culture magazine

11. What games do you like?
Sims 2

12. What commercial do you like?
Anything by S.T household products

13. Which country do you want to travel to?
Australia.

14. What would you say is your culinary specialty?
Bread

15. What's your strongest point?
The way I'm stupid in a good way

16. What's your weakest point?
I'm pretty narrow-minded

17. If you could jump in time and space, which country and which era would you go to?
The Japanese Edo Era or maybe Meiji Era.

Question

18. What's the very first thing you ever wrote?
I-I don't remember....

19. What's your favourite animal?
CatsCatsCatsCatsCats.

20. If you could be an animal, what would you be?
A three-toed sloth, or a sea lion.

21. What movies do you like?
Suspiria 2, Momento, South Park.

22. What TV shows do you like?
Discovery Channel programs.

23. What flower do you like?
Daffodils

24. If you were stranded on a desert island, what book would you take with you?
The compendium of laws (because it'll keep me going for a long time)

25. If you were stranded on a desert island what CD would you take with you?
"ARAL" Catherine Lala

26. What's your most beloved tool for work?
My Mac and dip pen

27. What would you be doing now if you hadn't become a mangaka?
An office worker...I guess?

28. What would you do if you won 300,000,000 yen on the lottery?
I'd build a cat palace, where I'd keep tons of cats!

29. If the Earth ended tomorrow, what would you do?
I'd make sure I could watch its destruction to the very last moment.

30. Recently, what's been the most important thing to you?
The fact that I've got so many things I'm into these days. I'm having such a great time at this stage in my life.

Illustration

My two cats always sit on my bookshelf, looking down just like this
Tsuki-san (♂)
Gin-san (♂)
What's she yelling about now?
Tail
Annoying, ain't it?
I CAN'T DO IT!
Sob Sob

Kazuma Kaneko's
Glowing Moon
Chapter 8
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Kano Miyamoto Presents
宮本佳野
The mysterious curse that affects only male descendants... Akihiko returns to his old hometown in the hopes of solving the puzzle, only to come face to face with a ghost...!?
Sleeping Moon
眠れる月
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"FLOWERS" * Pursued by more than one neighbour from the apartment block... !? Sexual Love ♥

...
...?
STARE
NO...
THEIR FACES LOOK SIMILAR, BUT HE ISN'T REN-KUN...

OWOW OW!
TUG
SQUEEZE
OOH!
SO YOU ACTUALLY HAVE A CORPOREAL BODY. HOW INTERESTING.
!
DAZED
..
THAT HURT
BUT, AREN'T YOU A GHOST?
THAT'S MY LINE...!
HUH?
ME!?

WHY ME?
I-IF ANYONE'S A GHOST HERE IT'S YOU, ISN'T IT!?
B-BECAUSE I READ ABOUT THE GHOST OF THE TSUKIMIDAI IN AN OLD DIARY...
I'VE SEEN A GHOST HERE BEFORE, SEE...
I don't see any of 'em.
...HUH?
AND I CALLED IT THE "GHOST OF THE TSUKIMIDAI" IN MY DIARY.
...?
?
BUT THEN... IF IT WAS YOU...
EH?
Steam
I'M THE ONE WHO WROTE THAT IN MY DIARY...
BUT HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT!?
IF YOU WROTE THAT DIARY, THEN... WHAT'S YOUR NAME!?

...
I'M CALLED SHINJOU BITAROU.
...
Bitaro...
HMM...
SO IN OTHER WORDS...
YOU'RE A DESCENDANT OF THE SAKAKI FAMILY...
AND YOU'VE COME FROM A HUNDRED YEARS IN THE FUTURE, FROM SOMETHING CALLED THE HEISEI* ERA?
HEY?
WHICH MEANS THAT I REALLY DID TRAVEL...?
THE MOON'S CHANGED AGAIN.
IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN A CRESCENT MOON TODAY
...

*T/N: Heisei period = 1989-current

MH...
I-I DON'T KNOW HOW TO PUT THIS, BUT
Hmm?
I GUESS THIS IS THE SO-CALLED...
I'M REALLY HAVING PROBLEMS UNDERSTANDING ALL THIS SO COULD YOU EXPLAIN WHAT'S GOING ON?
YOU SAID YOU'RE NAME IS AKIHITO, RIGHT?
N-NOTHING...
IT JUST SOUNDS LIKE SUCH A CLICHÉ, THAT'S ALL...
WHAT'S SO FUNNY?
T...TIME-SLIP...?
PFFT
?
YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME DO YOU?
...
IT DOES SEEM RATHER ABSURD.
...
WELL, YOU AS A GHOST WAS A LOT EASIER TO BELIEVE.

I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT THERE...
I'M HAVING TROUBLE BELIEVING IT MYSELF...
Ohuh
...YOU SAID YOU'D ONLY JUST COME TO THESE PARTS, RIGHT?
WHAT BROUGHT YOU THIS DEEP INTO THE COUNTRY-SIDE ALL THE WAY FROM TOKYO?
OH, WELL...
DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE CURSE... THE CURSE OF THE SAKAKI FAMILY?
THAT'S WHAT I CAME HERE TO INVESTIGATE...
YOU MEAN THE WAY THE ELDEST MALE DESCENDANTS ALWAYS DIE AN EARLY DEATH?
THAT'S THE ONE...

I'M NEXT IN LINE, SEE...
SO I CAME HOPING THAT THERE WAS A WAY I COULD STOP IT FROM HAPPENING
...YOU FEEL IT'S STILL TOO EARLY FOR YOU TO DIE?
YEAH
OKAY, FINE.
LET'S WORRY ABOUT YOU COMING FROM THE FUTURE AND ALL THAT LATER
EH...?
IT'S A MATTER OF URGENCY FOR US, TOO
THE SENSEI HERE IS ALREADY OVER 30
SENSEI?
HE'S THE PRESENT HEAD OF THE SAKAKI FAMILY. TO YOU, HE'S PROBABLY A GREAT-GRANDFATHER, OR THEREABOUTS
SCHOLAR? WHAT KIND?
HE'S A SCHOLAR, AND I STUDY UNDER HIM
MAINLY NATURAL HISTORY, BUT A LOT OF OTHER SUBJECTS TOO. HE'S ALSO RESEARCHING THE CURSE

OH, I SEE...
THE CURSE...
IT'S STILL CONTINUING IN YOUR TIME, RIGHT?
YEAH...
SO EVEN THAT MAN
COULDN'T FIND A WAY TO STOP IT...
HM...
THAT MEANS THAT BOTH SENSEI AND HIS BABY SON ARE GOING TO DIE PREMATURE DEATHS, THEN.
WELL, THERE'S NO CHANGING THAT.
OUR BEST HOPES WILL LIE IN FINDING A WAY TO STOP THE CURSE IN YOUR TIME.
...YOU'RE QUITE A DRY PERSON, AREN'T YOU?*
WHAT?
FORGET IT.
...SO HAVE YOU BEEN ABLE TO FIND OUT ANYTHING IN YOUR TIME?
...NO.

T/N: In English.

...
IT'S GETTING COLD...
I HAVEN'T FOUND OUT ANYTHING YET...
...
IT SHOULD BE AROUND 3AM.
I WONDER WHAT TIME IT IS NOW...
...HOW AM I GOING TO GET BACK HOME AGAIN?
...I THOUGHT I ALREADY CONVINCED YOU THAT IT'S THE TRUTH?
...
YOU'RE REALLY GOING TO STICK TO THE STORY OF HAVING COME FROM THE FUTURE RIGHT TO THE BITTER END, AREN'T YOU?
YEAH... BUT I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN COME AGAIN.
IT'S ALREADY BEEN A WEEK SINCE I CAME TO THE SAKAKI HOUSE, BUT IT'S ONLY THE SECOND TIME I'VE MANAGED TO TRAVEL TO YOUR TIME...
HUH?
DO YOU THINK YOU'LL BE ABLE TO COME HERE AGAIN?
WELL, I'D LIKE TO KNOW IF YOU FIND OUT ANYTHING NEW IN YOUR TIME.

A BELL...?
Crack
YES. IT'S MY GOOD LUCK CHARM. I JUST THOUGHT IT'D BE EASIER FOR YOU TO FIND YOUR WAY BACK HERE IF YOU CARRIED SOMETHING FROM THIS TIME.
Tinkle
THEN, WHY DON'T YOU TAKE THIS WITH YOU?
Rustle
EVERYONE HERE CALLS ME BITAROU
—SHINJOU-KUN
I HAVE ONE, TOO. SO WHEN I WANT TO CALL YOU, I'LL TRY RINGING MINE FROM HERE.
IT MIGHT CREATE A PATHWAY OF SORTS
DO YOU... BELIEVE THE CURSE REALLY EXISTS?
OKAY...

I DO
...
YOU SAID THAT BEFORE. WHEN YOU SAW ME, IT SHOCKED YOU INTO RETURNING TO YOUR OWN TIME, RIGHT?
WHAT?
IF YOU'RE REALLY FROM THE FUTURE AS YOU SAY, THEN THIS SHOULDN'T HARM YOU...
SHOVE
WARGH!
HE-HEY!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? I'M GOING TO FALL...!
PUSH
PUSH
IT'S NOT OKAY!!
GYAH!!
IT'S OKAY.
THERE'S A LAKE BELOW, SO GO AHEAD AND FALL!
AHAHA...

SEE YOU AGAIN.
AH...
I MEAN, TIME-SLIP? LIKE THAT WOULD EVER...
Grip
HN?
...OH... HAHA...
IT WAS JUST A DREAM AGAIN, WASN'T IT...?
IT WAS ....
...
Pant
Pant
THAT BASTARD!

Tinkle
IS EVERYTHING OKAY, AKIHIKO-SAN?
SURE...

MEMORIAL SERVICE?
WE'RE HAVING A MEMORIAL SERVICE HERE THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW...
YOU'LL COME, TOO, WON'T YOU?
SURE AS LONG AS I GET OVER THIS COLD
IT'S THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF YOUR GRANDAD'S DEATH...
CAN YOU MAKE IT?
GLUK
OH, I ALMOST FORGOT!
AND WHY DON'T YOU LIE DOWN AND GET SOME MORE SLEEP?
MAKE SURE TO TAKE SOME MEDICINE FOR YOUR COLD WHEN YOU'VE FINISHED EATING
YEAH, I THINK I'LL DO THAT...
...MUM, CAN YOU GET ME ANOTHER SLICE OF BREAD?
YES, YES
STARE
Just the same.
SAY, AUNTIE AKIKO
DO WE HAVE ANY RELATIVES CALLED "SHINJOU"?
OH,
WE DO INDEED. WHY DO YOU ASK?
ER, WELL...
...THEY REALLY DO LOOK ALIKE

I CAME ACROSS THE NAME WHEN I WAS RESEARCHING IN THE ATTIC.
DO YOU HAVE ANY OLD PHOTOGRAPHS OF THEM?
WHY, YES
I'LL GET THEM OUT FOR YOU LATER
HM?
WHAT?
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FOREHEAD?
YOU'VE, UH GOT A REALLY BIG BRUISE ON IT.
OH, THAT BOY IS ALWAYS BANGING HIS HEAD ON THE DOORFRAME
HONESTLY, HE NEVER WATCHES WHERE HE'S GOING!
REALLY!?
...THANKS FOR THE MEAL.
STICKER
OH, ARE YOU OFF TO UNIVERSITY?
IT'S WINTER BREAK ALREADY!
AH, REN!

DONK
!
Silly boy
ESPECIALLY IN OLD BUILDINGS LIKE THIS WHERE DOORWAYS ARE EVEN LOWER
M...MUST BE TOUGH, BEING SO TALL
YEAH, BUT YOU THINK HE'D LEARN AFTER HAVING LIVED HERE FOR OVER TWENTY YEARS!
A...ARE YOU OKAY, REN-KUN?
Fuck that hurt
FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, REN!
AFTER WE JUST TALKED ABOUT IT, TOO!
PFFT
JUST HOW LONG ARE YOU GONNA KEEP LAUGHING, FOUR-EYES?
HUH?
REN!

WELL, HE'S MAJORING IN HISTORY, BUT... I DON'T REALLY KNOW MUCH MORE THAN THAT.
HE'S ALWAYS BEEN PRETTY CLOSED-MOUTHED, SEE.
REN-KUN'S QUITE THE UNIQUE CHARACTER, ISN'T HE?
AH, YOU THINK SO, TOO?
Ha ha
WHAT'S HE STUDYING AT UNIVERSITY?
FOUR EYES?
1
2
3
4
SLAM
OH I GET IT
He's talking about my glasses!
I'M REALLY SORRY, AKIHIKO-SAN HONESTLY, THAT BOY...
HAHA...

I THINK
I NEED TO HAVE AT LEAST ONE PROPER TALK WITH HIM...
HMM...

CAW
THERE HE IS...
FOUND HIM
SO HE REALLY DID EXIST...
MAN, HOW CAN THIS BE...
SO HE WAS THE SON OF MY GREAT-GRANDFATHER'S SISTER...
IT'S A FAIRLY DISTANT RELATION, BUT HE'S GOT THE TYPICAL SAKAKI FAMILY LOOKS
I WONDER
IF THIS CAN HELP ME UNDERSTAND SOMETHING...

MY FATHER DIED AT 26
Shinsaku Ettarou (46th year of Heiji era)
Great-grandfather's sister's half-sister's son
40 years
Scholar
Cousin once removed?
student / literary man?
University education?
MY GRANDFATHER WAS KILLED IN ACTION AT 25
MY GREAT-GRANDFATHER DIED AT 32.
AND NOW I'M ALREADY 27
IF I DON'T HURRY
I'M GOING TO RUN OUT OF TIME...
Creak
Creak
EH?
...?
WHEW...
I HOPE EI-CHAN'S GOING TO CALL ME BACK SOON...
Tinkle

creak
slide

THIS IS GETTING SCAAARY!
SOB
SOB
SOB
TH...
...
AH... HELLO? MIYAKE?
IT'S ME, ODAGAWA
Oh, hey!
HOW'S IT GOING OVER THERE? YOU DOING OKAY?
Yeah, fine... did you find the document I asked you for?
Yeah, I found it in the National Congress Libarary
I'll send it over right away.
OKAY, THANKS.

Hang on... you don't sound so good
Did you manage to find anything out yet?
Nh...
You're writing your dissertation right now, aren't you?
There's a lot here that you could use as material
It's all getting a bit out of hand, actually.
I don't suppose you could come over yourself for a bit?
Eh, seriously!?
What?
I'll see if I can rearrange my schedule then.
You're going to be there for a while, right?
Yeah... let me know what you decide.
Okay.
Ding!
I just don't seem to have much energy today...
Um...
I'll go get some tea...
I wonder if I should go back to Tokyo for a bit myself...

*T/N: Room where the family Buddhist altar is kept.

...WHAT?
UH...
CLATTER
WAAH!!
TH...THERE'S SOMETHING BY YOUR SH-SHOULDER...
WH-WHAT THE HELL IS THAT!?
EH!?

YOU CAN SEE IT?
AAH...
WH... WH-WH-WHAT
WHAT IS THAT? SFX!? CG!?
Guignol? muppets
WHOOSH
A-A-A-AUNTIE AKIKO!
R-R-REN-KUN'S GOT SOME... SOME WEIRD THING...AND HE'S...
!
WHAT ARE YOU BOYS DOING OVER THERE?
EH!? WHAT?
SLITTE

I'M WHAT?
HUH...?
..??
MY EYES MUST HAVE BEEN PLAYING TRICKS ON ME...
EH!?
WHAT DID HE DO THIS TIME?
OH, ER, NOTHING...
AH, SURE...
I'LL JUST GO TO THE BATHROOM FIRST...
REALLY?
I'VE PUT SOME TEA ON, SO COME ON

AKIHIKO-SAN
REN-KUN!?
SO YOU'RE ONE OF THOSE WHO CAN SEE THEM, HUH?
WHAT...!?
THINK
...AKIHIKO-SAN.
You're too close!
Y-YES!?
NO, ER I THINK I MUST HAVE BEEN HAL-LUCINATING OR SOMETHING...
Yeah yeah
PUSH
I-I THOUGHT I SAW SOMETHING WHITE COME WHOOSHING OUT OF THAT BAMBOO-PIPE THING YOU WERE HOLDING

YOU'RE PRETTY INTERESTING, AREN'T YOU...
!
LE-LET GO!
HAHA... WHAT ARE YOU GETTING ALL TWITCHY FOR?
HAVE YOU ALWAYS BEEN ABLE TO SEE THEM?
OR IS IT THAT YOU'VE ONLY STARTED SEEING THINGS LIKE THAT AFTER YOU CAME TO THIS HOUSE?
...
HEY...
SO, KNOWING THAT...
WHATEVER HAPPENS, THE TWO OF US ARE GOING TO END UP DEAD BEFORE LONG ANYWAY...

DON'T YOU THINK IT'S BETTER FOR US
TO ENJOY THE SHORT TIME WE HAVE TO LIVE?
KISS
!
MAKE SURE YOU'RE THERE FOR THE MEMORIAL SERVICE TOMORROW.
YOU MIGHT SEE SOME INTERESTING THINGS THERE.
SEE YA.
CHIK
CHIK
I...
WANNA GO BACK HOME...
BACK HOME TO TOKYO...
I'M LETTING THAT KID RUIN CIRCLES AROUND ME...

Tinkle
Tinkle
HAH...
LOOKS LIKE AKIHIKO ISN'T COMING TONIGHT, EITHER...
NO FUN...
CLOAT
CLOP

ANOTHER GHOST, HUH
I HAVE TO ADMIT, IT'S INTRIGUING...
AND THIS TIME IT'S LIKE MY VERY OWN OPHELIA
A ripple is spreading between the anks separated by a hundred years..

MIYAMOTO KANO'S

Sleeping Moon

Chapter 3

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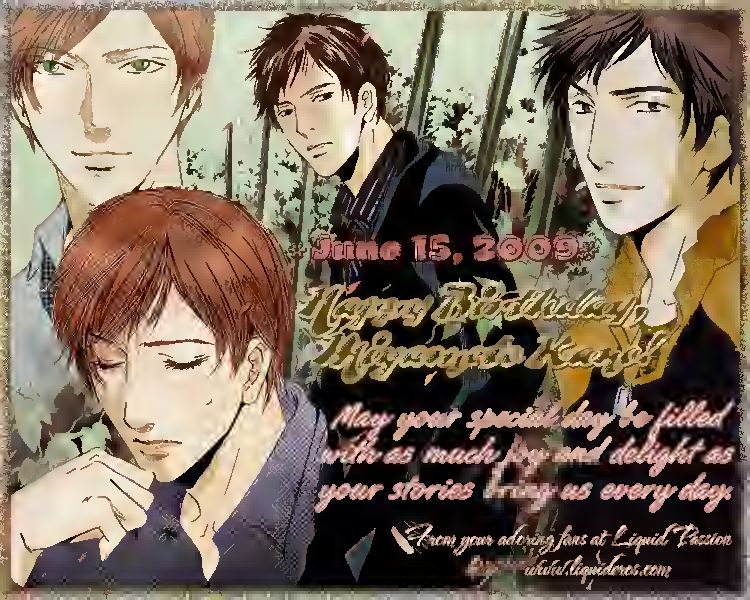
June 15, 2009
Happy Birthday,
Hagasaki Kei!
May your special day be filled
with as much joy and delight as
your stories bring us every day.
From your adoring fans at Liquid Passion
www.liquidpassion.com

Youkai

Youkai (妖怪, "demon", "spirit", or "monster") is the term given to a wide range of creatures from Japanese folklore, from evil ogre to mischievous kitsune. Some possess part animal / part human features (e.g. Kappa and Tengu). Because Youkai have unspecified spiritual or supernatural powers, their encounters with humans typically turn out to be dangerous--for the human. Their motives and agendas are so alien to humans that they are often completely incomprehensible.

Kitsune

Kitsune (狐) is the Japanese word for fox, including the Youkai form described in Japanese folklore. Depicted in stories as intelligent beings, they possess magical abilities that increase with their age and wisdom. Foremost among these is the ability to assume human form. While some folktales portray the use of this ability as a mischievous ploy to trick others and make trouble, other stories depict them as faithful guardians, friends, lovers, and wives. Kitsune have become closely associated with Inari, a Shinto god of wealth and fertility who uses white foxes as messengers. In this chapter of Sleeping Moon, reference is made to Kyoto's Fujimi-inari, the head shrine of Inari. Because of the potential power and influence of kitsune, some people make offerings to them as to a deity even now.

Kuda-gitsune

Kuda-gitsune (管狐, "pipe fox") is a small-sized fox which can be kept in a pipe and be used by a kitsune-tsukai as a spirit familiar. The magic-user holds a bamboo pipe and summons the kuda-gitsune to appear inside. The skills of the pipe foxes vary from legend to legend, but popular accounts include the pipe fox answering all questions posed to it, or giving helpful advice by foretelling the future.

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眠れる月
ネムレルツキ
第三幕
Sleeping Moon
KANOMIYAMOTO PRESENTS

AKIHIKO-SAN.
HURRY UP! THE PRIEST IS ALREADY HERE!
OKAY.
GOOD THING I BROUGHT A SUIT WITH ME...
I FEEL DRAINED...
!

G-GOOD MORNING, REN-KUN!
twitchy
twitchy
HEY
...
STARE
...?
TUG
THE KNOT IN YOUR TIE'S ALL WRONG.
UGH.
EH?
touch
WAY TOO CLOSE!
twitchy
R-REN-KUN?
HM?
WH-WHY DO YOU HAVE TO GET SO CLOSE?
HM... MAYBE BECAUSE IT'S FUN TO SEE HOW YOU REACT?
W...
WEREN'T YOU PRETENDING THAT I DON'T EXIST UNTIL RECENTLY?
I WAS?

A-ARE YOU A HO...
ER, I MEAN...ARE YOU G-G-G-GAY?
EH, ME?
L-LOOK, I'M YOUR COUSIN! IT'S NOT ALLOWED!
DESPERATE
HUH?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? COUSINS CAN GET MARRIED, OR DIDN'T YOU KNOW?
GOOD QUESTION
BUT I GUESS I'M COOL WITH BOTH MEN AND WOMEN AS LONG AS THEY'RE MY TYPE
Okay, don't
WE'RE BOTH MEN, FOR CRYING OUT LOUD!
WELL, THAT'S TRUE
BUT APART FROM THAT THERE'S NO OTHER BIOLOGICAL OR ETHICAL REASON WHY WE CAN'T, RIGHT?
...
HAHA!
WHY ARE YOU BEING SO SERIOUS ABOUT THIS? C'MON, LET'S GO
...

...YOU TOLD ME BEFORE THAT I MIGHT SEE SOMETHING AT THE MEMORIAL SERVICE
WHAT DID YOU MEAN BY THAT?
OH...
YEAH, YOU MIGHT GET TO SEE SOME STUFF I HEARD ERI WILL BE THERE, TOO
ERI-CHAN?
IS SHE FEELING BETTER?
YEAH, SHE'S BEEN DOING OKAY THESE PAST FEW DAYS
I SEE...
BUT HEY, WHEN YOU SAY I'LL SEE THINGS, WHAT DO YOU...?
HN
LOOKS LIKE THERE AREN'T MANY TODAY...

YOU'VE MET THEM BEFORE, RIGHT?
THE MEMBERS OF THE EXTENDED FAMILY...
OH, YEAH...
SHH, YOU TWO
HURRY UP AND SIT DOWN.
OKAY
THAT MUST BE ERI-CHAN. SHE LOOKS A LOT LIKE REN-KUN

CRAP, SHE CAUGHT ME LOOKING
bow
AH!
Ehehe
smile
UWAH, HOW CUTE!

AKIHIKO-SAN
WH-WHAT'S WRONG, REN-KUN...?
HM?
EH!?
THEY'RE HERE.
I-I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING THERE!
STARE
WH-WHERE!?
YOU CAN'T LOOK DIRECTLY. YOU HAVE TO CATCH THEM OUT OF THE CORNER OF YOUR EYE.
ON TOP OF THE BEAM, BY THE CEILING...

UH, THAT'S PRETTY DIFFICULT.
WARGH!
THUNK
SCRABBLE
OW!

siiilence
...
Ow...
...I CAN'T BELIEVE WE GOT KICKED OUT.
JUST AS WELL. IT WAS BORING ANYWAY.
SO...?
HUH?
MUTTER MUTTER

DIDJA SEE IT?
...
WH...
WHAT WAS THAT!?
DON'T ASK ME
THEY SEEM TO LIKE BUDDHIST SUTRA, SO THEY OFTEN TURN UP AT FUNERALS AND MEMORIAL SERVICES AND THE LIKE...
OH YEAH
KUDA'S ALREADY BACK IN THE BUTSUDAN
AH!
THAT REMINDS ME, WHAT WAS THAT WHITE THING THE OTHER DAY?
ARE THEY LIKE... GH-GHOSTS!?
KUDA!?
KUH?
NOPE
HAVEN'T YOU EVER HEARD OF KUDA-GITSUNE?*
Y-YOU KNOW! THAT THING THAT CAME WHOOSHING OUT OF THE BAMBOO PIPE...
I GUESS THEY'RE SOME KIND OF YOUKAI*

*TN: See insert.

N-NO, I HAVEN'T WHAT THE HELL IS IT? A FOX? THAT THING JUST NOW ALSO LOOKED A BIT LIKE A FOX...
EH!?
FOXES HAVE ALWAYS BEEN THIS HOUSE'S GUARDIAN DEITIES DIDN'T YOU KNOW?
WELL, YEAH
DON'T WORRY THEY HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH OUR CURSE
NO ONE'S EVER USED THE KUDA FOR ILL PURPOSES, SO THERE'S NO REASON THE FOX GODS WOULD WANT TO CURSE US
ANYWAY, THAT'S WHY THERE'RE FOXES ALL OVER THE PLACE HERE
WE WERE GIVEN THE KUDA FOX FROM KYOTO'S FUJIMI INARI SHRINE IT'S MEANT TO BE A GUARDIAN OF SORTS, PROTECTING OUR HOUSE FROM EVIL
C-CAN IT DO STUFF?
NOT REALLY...
IT'S HARMLESS, AND DOESN'T HAVE ANY USEFUL SKILLS.
NO ONE PRAYS OR LEAVES IT OFFERINGS ANYMORE, SO IT'S LOST MOST OF ITS POWERS
IT JUST ACTS AS A BIT OF AN EARLY WARNING SYSTEM, REALLY...
AH
WHAT!?
RUSTLE
HERE
thrash
thrash
SO... SO, THEN, WHAT WERE YOU DOING WITH IT THAT TIME...?

RUSTLE
hop
flail flail
GYAH!
Chill, man
LOOK
I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU BEFORE...
Give me
A- AFFECTING ME?
YOU MEAN IT'S DRIVING ME CRAZY!? HAHAHA, YEAH, THAT MUST BE IT!
WH-WHAT ON EARTH... WAS THAT A FROG!?
Aw...
IN THE MIDDLE OF WINTER? THAT WAS A GNOME
THE HOUSE MUST BE HAVING QUITE AN EFFECT ON YOU IF YOU CAN EVEN SEE THE LIKES OF THEM
RUSH!
YOUR COMING HERE HAS TRIGGERED SOMETHING
JUMPY JUMPY
IT'S ALMOST LIKE...
THIS HOUSE HAS BEEN WAITING FOR YOU...

IN FACT,
I THINK IT HAS.
HAVE YOU ALWAYS BEEN ABLE TO SEE THOSE THINGS, REN-KUN?
CRUSH
YEAH
THEY'VE BEEN GETTING CLEARER AS I'VE GROWN OLDER
I FEEL LIKE IT'S BEEN GETTING MORE AND MORE TANGIBLE.
BUT I GUESS
IN THE BEGINNING, I STILL HAD THE SAME THOUGHTS AS YOU DO
EH?
CAW
YOU KNOW.
THINKING THERE MUST BE A WAY TO STOP THIS CURSE, AND STUFF...
THE OTHER WORLD, I MEAN.

THAT'S ULTIMATELY THE REASON YOU CAME HERE, RIGHT?
UM...
YEAH...
I KNEW IT.
BUT I CAN TELL YOU NOW, IT'S USELESS TO TRY
NO MATTER HOW MUCH I RESEARCHED, I COULDN'T FIND AN ANSWER
...WHY?
THERE AREN'T ANY WRITTEN REFERENCES LEFT THAT REFER TO THE CURSE
ALMOST AS IF SOMEONE MADE SURE TO GET RID OF THEM ALL...
WHICH MEANS WE HAVE NO MORE WAYS TO FIND OUT
IF THERE REALLY IS A CURSE...
OR IF ALL THE DEATHS WERE JUST UNFORTUNATE COINCIDENCES
Stroke
ALL WE HAVE ARE USELESS OLD DIARIES AND BOOKS
DUNNO...
meow
THERE'S NOTHING MORE WE CAN DO, SHORT OF TRAVELLING BACK THROUGH TIME.
A
!

R-REN-KUN?
W-WOULD YOU...
WHAT?
ER, N-NOTHING
WORK WITH ME?
WE COULD RESEARCH THE CURSE TOGETHER.
...
I MEAN...
THE TWO OF US ARE THE ONLY DIRECT MALE DESCENDANTS OF THIS HOUSE, SO...
OKAY BUT ONLY AFTER YOU AND I HAVE GOTTEN A BIT CLOSER
HUH?
ARE YOUNGER GUYS NOT YOUR THING?
WHAT!?

I-I TOLD YOU,
STOP TEASING ME ALL THE TIME!
DO YOU HAVE A GIRLFRIEND?
STROKE
UGH...
YOU DON'T, DO YOU? ME NEITHER.
WH-WHY...
HEY...!
...
H-HOW COME?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE POPULAR WITH THE GIRLS...
PUH!!
ONE NIGHT STANDS ARE ONE THING.
BUT I'M CAREFUL NOT TO GET TOO SERIOUS WITH ANY OF THEM.
BECAUSE I NEVER KNOW WHICH DAY COULD BE MY LAST.
YOU'VE HAD THE EXACT SAME THOUGHT, HAVEN'T YOU?
IN THAT CASE, AREN'T WE THE PERFECT MATCH?

I-IT'S NOT THAT EASY! THIS IS JUST A MOMENTARY IMPULSE THAT YOU'RE
WAH!
THUD
GUY, GIRL, IT'S ALL THE SAME
C'MON, IT'S JUST A KISS.
LIKE HELL IT IS!
You're squishing me!
YEAH, YEAH.
R-REN-KUN...
AH!
I...I WASN'T DONE TALKING WITH YOU YET...
REEEN! WHERE ARE YOU...?
...
WHAT WERE YOU DOING?
Che
NUTHIN.
REALLY? ANYWAY, MOTHER'S CALLING YOU
WHAT FOR?
SHE WANTS YOU TO SAY BYE TO THE REST OF THE FAMILY BEFORE THEY GO.

MAN, WHAT A PAIN...
AKIHIKO-SAN, I'LL CATCH YOU LATER.
For the continuation
HAHA...
HELLO
blush
EH?
OH, ER, EHEHE HELLO...
smile
H-HOW ARE YOU FEELING TODAY?
OH, MUCH BETTER, THANK YOU
Great
REN'S PRETTY STRANGE, ISN'T HE?
EH?
Y-YOU THINK SO...?

PEOPLE ALWAYS SAY TWINS UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER BETTER THAN ANYONE, RIGHT?
BUT REN RARELY EVEN TALKS TO ME.
WE WERE PRETTY CLOSE WHEN WE WERE YOUNGER, BUT...
REN GRADUALLY STARTED KEEPING HIMSELF APART FROM OTHERS.
WHAT?
WHY?
EH
HOW COME?
I DON'T KNOW...
...ERI-CHAN, MAY I ASK IF YOU CAN...
S SEE THE THINGS HE DOES?
OH,
NO...
I CAN'T SEE THEM.
...

WELL, BYE FOR NOW.
YEAH. TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.
THANK YOU

creak
drip
recall

Tinkle
Tinkle
Tinkle

Slide
BRR
IT'S COLD
There's even snow...
AKIHIKO!
FINALLY, YOU CAME
YEAH
IT'S STILL HARD FOR ME TO FIND THE RIGHT TIME TO TRAVEL HERE
IT'S STRANGE, BUT...

Hmm
IT LOOKS LIKE THE SNOW IS GOING TO SETTLE.
IS IT SNOWING OVER IN YOUR TIME, TOO?
NO... IT'S COLD, BUT NO SNOW YET.
IT MUST BE BECAUSE WE'RE BLOOD RELATIONS ...
OH?
COME ON, IT'S COLD OUT HERE SO LET'S TALK INSIDE.
OKAY.
JUST SEEING HIM IN FRONT OF ME FILLS ME WITH RELIEF.
COME ON IN.
EVERYONE'S ASLEEP, SO IT'S PRETTY QUIET.
IS THIS YOUR ROOM?
YES.
UGH, IT'S FREEZING... I THINK MY COLD'S COMING BACK...
YOU KNOW,
SNIFFLE
I TOLD YOU, I'M NOT A GHOST! MY BODY'S JUST AS SOLID AS YOURS!
STRUDE
...
SO EVEN GHOSTS FEEL THE COLD?
LET ME CHECK.

HN
...
WH-WHAT?
THUMP
THUMP
...JUST WONDERING ABOUT YOUR GLASSES.
I'LL PUT SOME MORE COAL ON.
WE CAN'T HAVE YOU GETTING SICK.
KUH?
I MEAN YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO CHOOSE WHAT YOU BRING ALONG.
OH, RIGHT.
OH, YEAH. I FELL ASLEEP STILL WEARING THEM. I THINK WHEN I TIME-TRAVEL, I TAKE WHATEVER'S TOUCHING ME ALONG FOR THE RIDE.
...
MAYBE IT'S TO DO WITH YOUR CONSCIOUS WILL?
CRAP...ME MADE ME REMEMBER THE KISS WITH REN-KUN...

DO YOU, UM...
HAVE S-SOMEONE SPECIAL IN YOUR LIFE?
OH...
YEAH, I'M GOING TO GET MARRIED NEXT YEAR.
EH!?
EITAROU-KUN?
HM?
CRICKLE
FOR REAL?
CONGRATULA-TIONS! WHO TO?
...I DON'T REALLY KNOW.
I'VE ONLY EVER SEEN PICTURES OF HER.
Whoo
MY PARENTS ARRANGED IT.
THEY CHOSE HER AS MY FIANCÉE LONG AGO.
OH...
THAT'S RIGHT, THIS IS STILL THE MEIJI ER...
ARE YOU MARRIED
YOU LOOK OLD ENOUGH TO HAVE FATHERED A CHILD OR TWO ALREADY
...
CRICKLE
I DON'T HAVE ANY CHILDREN.
I DON'T EVEN HAVE A GIRLFRIEND, NEVER MIND A WIFE...
slump
...
LET'S HOPE YOU FIND ONE SOON, HUH?

YEAH...
BUT FIRST I'VE GOT TO WORK OUT A WAY TO BREAK THIS CURSE...
THAT'S TRUE...
WELL...
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT COME BACK, SO I'VE BEEN DOING A BIT OF RESEARCH.
HAVE YOU MANAGED TO FIND OUT ANYTHING?
YES.
I'VE BEEN ASKING AROUND IN THE VILLAGE,
AND I THINK I'VE MANAGED TO DETERMINE ROUGHLY WHAT TIME FRAME WE'RE TALKING ABOUT.
EH!?
FROM WHAT I GATHER, THE CURSE BEGIN ABOUT ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO FROM THIS DATE.
R-REALLY!?
WELL...
UNFORTUNATELY, NO BOOKS OR DOCUMENTS REMAIN THAT SPEAK OF IT.
SO IT'S JUST MY BEST GUESS.

HE SAID THAT ALL THE BOOKS WE HAVE ARE USELESS, AND THAT SOMEONE MADE SURE THERE'S NOTHING LEFT THAT HAS ANY REAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE CURSE.
...
IS HE SUGGESTING THEY WERE INTENTIONALLY DESTROYED?
Yeah...
...
MY COUSIN SAID THE SAME THING.
COUSIN?
HE'S THE OTHER DIRECT MALE DESCENDANT BACK IN MY TIME.
...
...WHO WOULD DO THAT?
I DON'T KNOW.
...
ACTUALLY... THERE'S ONE OTHER THING I'VE MANAGED TO FIND OUT.
EH... WHAT?
AKIHIKO.

THIS IS JUST SOMETHING I HEARD, BUT
IT SEEMS THAT THERE'S ALWAYS BEEN SOMEONE WITH SPECIAL POWERS IN THE SAKAKI FAMILY...
SPECIAL POWERS?
YES. JUST LIKE YOU.
EH...ME!?
YOU MEAN THERE HAVE BEEN OTHERS BEFORE ME...?
YES.
THAT'S RIGHT.
BUT...BUT THEN...

DOESN'T THAT MEAN THAT THERE HAVE BEEN OTHER PEOPLE WHO'VE TRAVELLED BACK IN TIME LIKE I HAVE...?
QUITE POSSIBLY.
Creak
AKIHIKO-SAN...?
MAYBE HE'S GONE TO THE BATHROOM.
SO STRICT...

slide
...?
END OF PART 3

Miyamoto Kano's
Sleeping Moon
Chapter 4
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Bye, Lelaina.
We're sad to see you go. We'll miss you!
Wishing you all the best!
From Liquid Eyes Staff

already completely forgot about the pond incident
Akihito LIO yrs.
Nickname at this age Stretch
Still mad about being dunked in the pond
HE FOUND A PICTURE OF THE TWO, TAKEN AT THE SAKAKI HOUSE 17 YEARS AGO.

1 眠れる月

ネムレルツキ

KAORU MIYAMOTO PRESENTS

1
眠れる月
ネムレルツキ
第四幕
Sleeping Moon
KANOMI AMOTO PRESENTS
Part 4

AKIHIKO-SAN!
WH...
twitch
WHAT IS IT, REN-KUN?
twitch
I WANNA KNOW
WHERE YOU WENT LAST NIGHT!!

Why do I feel like I'm being told off?
M-MY ROOM?
ER, DID YOU NEED ME FOR SOMETHING?
NEVER MIND ABOUT THAT!
JUST TELL ME WHERE YOU WENT WANDERING OFF TO IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT!
Gasp!
L-LAST NIGHT?
WH-WH-WHAT DO YOU MEAN!?
I WENT OVER TO YOUR ROOM, BUT YOU WEREN'T THERE.
WHAT?
ER, WELL, YOU SEE ..
REN-KUN

YOU...
YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME, DO YOU?
COME WITH ME A SEC.
EH?
IS THIS YOUR ROOM?
YEAH
JUST SIT DOWN WHEREVER.
...

WOW, THIS IS REALLY OLD, ISN'T IT?
WHAT KIND OF BOOK IS IT?
HERE...
IT'S KIND OF A LOCAL HISTORY RECORD.
UGH...
I DON'T THINK I CAN READ THIS... I WAS NEVER GOOD AT CLASSICAL JAPANESE...
THERE'S A TRANSLATION BELOW
THIS BIT "IN EACH GENERATION OF THE SAKAKI FAMILY,"
"ONE IS BORN WHO POSSESSES SPECIAL POWERS."
"CALLED 'DREAM-SEERS' BY THOSE AROUND THEM,"
"THEY ARE SAID TO HAVE THE ABILITY TO MANIPULATE DREAMS AT WILL."

...I HEARD THE SAME FROM BITAROU-KUN...
...ONE OF OUR ANCESTORS
WHO?
...YOU DON'T LOOK VERY SURPRISED
DID YOU ALREADY KNOW ABOUT THIS?
YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME, DO YOU?
NOT REALLY.
B-BUT YOU SAW FOR YOURSELF THAT I WASN'T IN MY ROOM LAST NIGHT, RIGHT?
I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND HOW IT WORKS MYSELF BUT MAYBE IT'S MY WHOLE BODY THAT GETS TRANSPORTED THROUGH TIME...
...
Y...
YEAH...
...ARE YOU TRYING TO TELL ME YOU MET THAT GUY IN YOUR DREAM?
...

TIME...
HUH?
SOMETHING ABOUT THIS HOUSE MESSES WITH THE FLOW OF TIME
LIKE THERE'S A TEAR IN THE SPACE-TIME CONTINUUM HERE OR SOMETHING
MAYBE YOU'VE FOUND A WAY TO MAKE USE OF THAT...
S...SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A SCIENCE FICTION MOVIE!
Eha-ha!
AKIHIKO-SAN
Crunch
YES?

I WANT TO GO WITH YOU...
TO THE PAST...
HUH?
BACK IN THE TAISHOU PERIOD,
AT THE SAKAKI HOUSE...

EITAROU-SAN, CAN I COME IN?
Slide
WHAT?
OH, IT'S YOU, SHIHOU-SAN
DID YOU NEED ME FOR SOMETHING?
MY MOTHER ASKED ME TO CALL YOU DOWN FOR AN AFTER-NOON SNACK.
SHE'S GOT SOME NEW SWEETS THAT SHE WANTS YOU TO TRY
LOOK AT YOU WITH ALL YOUR BOOKS AGAIN I'M SURPRISED YOU DON'T GET TIRED OF READING THEM!
WELL, I NEED THEM FOR WORK.
THERE'S A TEAR IN YOUR COLLAR.
Stare
WHAT?
UGH!
Sigh

HOW LUCKY THAT I BROUGHT NEEDLES AND THREAD WITH ME!
~~~
OH, WHAT'S WITH THE LOOK?
I'M COLD, THAT'S WHY!
WELL, THAT'S TRUE. I'LL PUT IN NEW PADDING FOR YOU WHILE I'M AT IT.
...LOOK, SHIHO-SAN.
I KNOW WE'RE COUSINS, BUT A YOUNG GIRL YOUR AGE SHOULDN'T BE...
SAY, EITAROU-SAN.
I SAW A STRANGE MAN HERE THE OTHER DAY
EH!?
~~~

WH...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I SAW YOU TWO GOING INTO THIS ROOM
HE WAS WEARING VERY ODD CLOTHES, ALMOST LIKE A COMMON LABOURER
damn
I...I HAVE NO IDEA WHO YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT
SHIHOU, EITAROU-SAN!
HURRY AND COME DOWN, PLEASE!
WE'RE COMING!
thunk
YOU HEARD HER
L-LET'S GO, QUICK!
IT WAS ABOUT A WEEK AGO.
HE WAS HERE WITH YOU, EITAROU-SAN
MAYBE HE WAS A GHOST?
HUH?
...I SEE THEM SOMETIMES

GHOSTS?
W-WELL, THERE YOU HAVE IT. SURELY THE MAN YOU SAW MUST HAVE BEEN ONE OF YOUR GHOSTS!?
meow
Come on, calico
WELL, I GUESS HE COULD HAVE BEEN
tinkle
YES, I THINK SO
I SEE THINGS LIKE WHITISH SHAPES, AND FOXFIRE OVER THE POND.
SHIHOU-SAN
...I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU KNOW ANYTHING?
ABOUT THIS HOUSE, I MEAN...
OH, IS THIS ABOUT THE CURSE?
YES?
SHIHOU-SAN
OH, THAT REMINDS ME!
A WHILE AGO, I WAS IN THE OUTHOUSE, LOOKING FOR THE HINA-DOLLS*
NO NEED TO HIDE IT
EVERYONE KNOWS THAT YOU AND MY BROTHER ARE RESEARCHING THE CURSE

*T/N Traditionally put on display as part of Girl's festival in March.

...AND THAT'S WHERE I FOUND THIS ROUGH SKETCH, YOU KNOW LIKE A FLOOR PLAN.
...A PLAN OF THIS HOUSE?
I'M NOT SURE BUT IT WAS PRETTY HIDDEN AWAY, LIKE SOMEONE WANTED TO MAKE SURE IT WASN'T FOUND. THAT'S WHY IT STAYED IN MY MIND.
THAT PLAN... WHERE EXACTLY DID YOU FIND IT!?
I-LIKE I SAID, IT'S IN THE UPSTAIRS PART OF THE OUTHOUSE, INSIDE THAT LARGE CHEST...
EXCUSE ME!
AH, EITAROU-SAN!
AREN'T YOU GOING TO EAT MOTHER'S SWEETS?
JUST TELL HER TO LEAVE MY PORTION BY THE SIDE!
OH, HONEST-LY...
creak

rustle
HM...
IS THIS IT?
rustle

REN-KUN?
SHUT THE WINDOW, IT'S FREEZING OUT THERE.
NH.
...IT'S WANDERING AROUND OUTSIDE AGAIN.
HUH?

WHAT IS?
IT'S BEEN DOING THAT A LOT, RECENTLY...
...YOU MEAN THE ONE THAT LOOKS LIKE A SHIRABYOU-SHI*?
YE AH... I THINK HE MIGHT BE A GUARDIAN DEITY FOR THIS HOUSE.
THAT FOX FROM BEFORE.
HM?
...BE THAT AS IT MAY, REN-KUN...
WHY ARE YOU LAYING OUT YOUR FUTON IN MY ROOM?
move
BECAUSE I WANT TO SLEEP BESIDE YOU, OBVIOUSLY.
B-BUT WE HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING WHETHER YOU'LL BE ABLE TO TRAVEL TO THE PAST JUST BY SLEEPING IN THE SAME ROOM---
EH!?

*T/N: Female dancers dressed in stylised male attire who performed for nobles

AND WHILE WE'RE AT IT, WHY NOT TRY SOME OTHER STUFF, TOO?
PUSH
WELL, YOU DON'T KNOW UNLESS YOU TRY.
WARGH!
Y'KNOW.
YOU ONLY EVER PUT UP A PRETTY WEAK FIGHT. ARE YOU DOING IT ON PURPOSE?
YOU'RE OKAY WITH KISSING ALREADY, AREN'T YOU?
R-R-REN-KUN, NOW, SEE HERE...
pause
I'LL CALL FOR HELP!
WAIT!
Ugh!
OF COURSE NOT---
GO RIGHT AHEAD. BUT GIVEN YOUR POSITION, YOU'D BE IN WAY MORE TROUBLE THAN I WOULD.
Mh.
YEAH, YEAH.
LOOK, IT'S FINE. IT'S NOTHING TO STRESS OVER.
?
...

...I WAS WONDERING ABOUT IT WHEN I READ THAT OLD BOOK...
WHAT'S IT FEEL LIKE?
TRAVELLING BACK IN TIME, I MEAN...
sigh
THINKING HOW GREAT IT WOULD BE IF I HAD THAT POWER, TOO...
sniff
EH?
whirr...
...WHAT'S THAT GUY'S CONNECTION TO US?
REALLY?
...EITAROU-KUN LOOKS A LOT LIKE YOU.
HE'S A DISTANT RELATION. BUT IT'S HARD TO FIND ANY RECORDS GOING BACK THAT FAR.
HIS FACE IS REALLY SIMILAR TO YOURS...I ACTUALLY MISTOOK HIM FOR YOU AT FIRST.
OH, YEAH.

I HEARD THAT A SMALL FIRE BROKE OUT HERE, BEFORE THE WAR
IT BURNT DOWN PART OF THE OUT-HOUSE
WELL, I LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING THAT GUY
OH...
WANNA GO TO SLEEP?
JUST DON'T TRY ANY-THING!
I'LL GET REALLY MAD IF YOU DO!
ALRIGHT, ALREADY
YOU STAY ON YOUR SIDE GOT IT?
roll
YEAH, YEAH.
Switch
...AS IF!
DO YOU REALLY THINK I'D LET THIS CHANCE SLIP BY?
LIKE HELL
...
OKAY THEN. GOOD NIGHT...
pounce
ACK!
PIN
HIGH... HEAVY~~~

NH...
AKIHIKO-SAN...
SO?
ARE YOU GETTING IN THE MOOD, AFTER ALL?
Ah!
D-DON'T YOU THINK
WHAT?
THAT THERE'RE SOME WORDS YOU SHOULD SAY BEFORE DOING THESE THINGS?
slide
...
OH...
...
REN-KUN, SERIOUSLY...

BUT, YEAH...
I THINK THAT
WRENCH
YOU WANT WORDS?
JUST LIKE A GIRL, AREN'T YOU!?
I MIGHT JUST LIKE YOU...
REGARDLESS OF YOU BEING A GUY, OR MY COUSIN—
POUNCE
YOU WON'T MIND ME DOING OTHER STUFF TO YOU TOO, RIGHT!?
C-CRAP, I'M GOING ALONG WITH IT...
SO, THAT MEANS~~~
ARGH!!

HOLD ON... REN-KUN...
tug
AH!
YEAH, YEAH. JUST KEEP STILL FOR A BIT~~~
AH, WAIT WHAT ARE YOU---?
SHH...
slip
HE-HEY... REN-KUN!!
tinkle
REN-KUN...?
slide
droop
!
!
tinkle

tinkle
tinkle
AH...
...
HAAH...

EITAROU-KUN?
AKIHIKO.
creak
PHEW, AND NOT A MINUTE TOO SOON...
UGH, IT'S COLD...
IT'S SNOWING HERE AGAIN, HUH?
YEAH. THE COLD'S BEEN DREADFUL.
LET'S HURRY UP AND GO INSIDE.
OKAY.
glance glance
...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

SHH-
SOMEONE SAW YOU LAST TIME YOU WERE HERE.
EH!?
IT'D MEAN NO END OF TROUBLE HAVING TO EXPLAIN WHO YOU ARE. SO JUST KEEP A LOW PROFILE.
.....
COME ON.
LET'S GO BEFORE SOMEONE COMES.
SO, DID YOU MANAGE TO FIND OUT ANYTHING?
WHEW-
YEAH. IN THE OUTHOUSE---
HM?
IS TEA OKAY?
YEAH. THANKS.
steam

WH-WH-WHAT!?
twitch
?
IT'S JUST THAT YOU'VE GOT A RED MARK ON YOU...
...
WHAT HAPPENED HERE?
touch
WARGH!
I...I NARROWLY ESCAPED BEING ASSAULTED TONIGHT.
HUH?
Y-YOU'VE GOT TO LISTEN, EITAROU-KUUUN!
waah
THE TRUTH is~~~
??
HMM...

HUH!?
N-NO, NO, I LIKE GIRLS!
SO BASICALLY, YOU'RE TELLING ME THAT YOU'RE A LOVER OF MEN?
I'VE HEARD A LOT OF SUCH STORIES FROM AROUND ENGLAND RECENTLY, BUT...
WELL, INFATUATIONS LIKE THAT CAN BE HARD TO DEAL WITH
ACTUALLY, I'M IN A SIMILAR SITUATION...
EH, WHY!?
WHY ARE YOU SUDDENLY ON HIS SIDE?
SO WHAT, NOW IT'S MY FAULT!?
waah
waah
JUST BECAUSE YOU HAVE THE SAME FACE HE DOES!
crumple
sip
IN THAT CASE, JUST TURN HIM DOWN COMPLETELY
THE ONLY REASON THIS REN KEEPS MAKING ADVANCES IS BECAUSE YOU KEEP GIVING HIM OPPORTUNITIES TO DO SO. AM I WRONG?
OH. BUT DOESN'T THAT MEAN SHE'S ALSO A MEMBER OF THE SAKAKI FAMILY...?
YES. SHE'S THE YOUNGEST DAUGHTER, SHIHOU.
THE DAUGHTER OF THIS HOUSE KEEPS DROPPING ALL THESE HINTS AND GIVING ME UNWANTED ATTENTION.
I TOLD HER THAT I'M GETTING MARRIED NEXT YEAR, BUT STILL...

WOW, REALLY?
I GUESS IT TAKES ALL SORTS
YEAH. WELL WE'LL JUST BOTH HAVE TO BE MORE CAREFUL FROM NOW ON
TH-THAT SOUNDS TOUGH...
SHE'S ALSO THE ONE WHO SAW YOU, BY THE WAY.
SHE WENT TO AN ALL-GIRL'S SCHOOL. SO LET'S JUST SAY SHE'S FULL OF CURIOSITY TOWARD THE OPPOSITE SEX...
I GUESS THAT'S MODERN GIRLS FOR YOU.
OH...
rustle
SO, ANYWAY...
I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO SHOW YOU
HAVE A LOOK AT THIS...
SHIHOU-SAN TOLD ME ABOUT THIS.
gaze
EITAROU-KUN'S PRETTY HANDSOME, ISN'T HE...?

HE'S GOT THE FACE OF A MODERN YOUNG MAN, BUT
Quite the looker
I'M SURE HE IS POPULAR WITH GIRLS HERE IN HIS OWN TIME, TOO.
pinch
ARE YOU LISTENING? THIS IS IMPORTANT!
AKIHIKO!
OW!
SO----
shallow
stare
WELL, YOU NEITHER LOOK NOR ACT LIKE IT!
You don't even say "sam" to me
YOU DO REALISE I'M THE OLDER ONE HERE, DON'T YOU...?
HMPF..
NOW TAKE A CLOSE LOOK AT THIS. DO YOU NOTICE ANYTHING?

WHY IS THERE SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT IT?
THAT'S WHAT I'M TRYING TO FIND OUT
THIS MAY BE ONE OF THE MISSING LINKS TO THE CURSE
EH...?
NH...

AKIHIKO-SAN...?
twinkle
Flomp
AW, MAN
WHAT THE HELL?
creak
creak
creak
DAMNIT...
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE LEFT ME BEHIND~~~
twinkle
MH?

creak
WHO'S THERE?
IS THAT YOU, MUM...?
slide
creak
End of Part 1

Miyamoto Kano's

Sleeping Moon

Chapter 5

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Sleeping Moon
月に眠れ
弓立帝
ネムレルツキ
KANO MIYAMOTO PRESENT

TN: Current era, 1989 ~ present

EVERYONE'S ALWAYS RUSHING AROUND.
I GUESS THAT'S THE BIT THAT GETS TO ME.
WELL, I HAVE TO SAY, YOU SEEM TO FIT INTO THIS AGE PRETTY WELL.
HEY, THAT'S MEAN!
CHUCKLE
..I HOPE..
HM?
clonk
I HOPE WE CAN SOLVE THIS SOON AND LET YOU HAVE A NORMAL LIFE AGAIN.
EH...?
YOU'RE A GOOD PERSON
AND YOU DESERVE TO LIVE A LONG, HAPPY LIFE TOGETHER WITH YOUR FAMILY.

WHAT IS IT?
YOU'VE BEEN DOING RESEARCH ON THIS HOUSE, RIGHT?
HAVE YOU FOUND OUT WHAT HAPPENS TO ME IN MY FUTURE?
EITAROU. .
..ANYWAY,
I WANTED TO ASK YOU SOMETHING.
HUH...?
DO YOU REALLY WANT TO KNOW?
HMM...
WELL, IN ANY CASE, I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENS TO YOU, SO DON'T WORRY.
WHY NOT?
ACTUALLY, I'D BETTER NOT ASK...
A FIRE DESTROYED ALL THE DOCUMENTS REFERRING TO THIS TIME PERIOD.
EH?
IF I WERE TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENS TO ME, I HAVE A FEELING LIFE WOULD BECOME PRETTY BORING.

YOU'LL BE OKAY.
YOU'RE NOT A DIRECT DESCENDANT, SO I'M SURE YOU'LL LEAD A HAPPY LIFE
HMM
I CAN'T DECIDE IF THAT'S UNFORTUNATE OR JUST A RELIEF.
WHAT TIME IS IT? I'D BETTER HEAD BACK.
OH, OKAY.
rattle
rub
WHICH LEDGE SHOULD I PUSH YOU OFF THIS TIME?
STOP IT!!
I'M PRETTY SURE I CAN GO BACK JUST BY WISHING IT NOW
Hmph

Ren-kun...
HM?
WHAT IS IT?
..?
HUH?
CA...CAN I...
T...TOUCH YOU A LITTLE BIT?
...AKIHIKO?
...WHEN I LOOK CLOSELY, THEY DO LOOK DIFFERENT...
gaze

WHAT'S WRONG...?
!
N...
NOTHING I'M SORRY!
I...I'LL SEE YOU AGAIN NEXT TIME!
SLAM
AKIHIKO—
HEY, WAIT A SECOND

I'M SURE
I'M JUST CONFUSED RIGHT NOW.
BECAUSE REN-KUN
ACTS THE WAY HE DOES..
AKIHIKO-SAN!
MH...?

HUH...?
WHERE'S REN-KUN?
slide
HOW LONG ARE YOU PLANNING ON SLEEPING?
BREAKFAST'S READY!
AH, SURE I'LL BE RIGHT DOWN
WHERE'S REN-KUN, AUNTIE?
OH, HE SAID SOMETHING ABOUT NOT FEELING WELL. HE'S BEEN SLEEPING ALL MORNING
nibble
UGH . I FEEL SLUGGISH...

I GUESS HE MUST HAVE.
HE HAD A HEADACHE, TOO, AND DIDN'T WANT ANY BREAKFAST
OH...
DID HE CATCH A COLD OR SOMETHING?
WELL, YOU KNOW.
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE WRITING A THESIS AREN'T YOU? ARE YOU GETTING ANYWHERE WITH IT?
HUH?
AH... ER, YES, I MEAN...
IT'S TAKING A WHILE.
SURELY YOU CAN'T TAKE TOO MUCH TIME OFF FROM UNIVERSITY?
AREN'T YOU STARTING TO MISS TOKYO?
ANYWAY, AKIHIKO-SAN.
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE DOING OKAY WITH WORK?

HAAH...
NO, WELL... I'M ONLY GOING TO UNIVERSITY PART-TIME, SO...
IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW MANY WEEKS I TAKE OFF
OH, RIGHT...
I GUESS THAT WAS A HINT THAT I SHOULD GO BACK HOME SOON...
HOPE I HAVEN'T OVER-STAYED MY WELCOME...
Silence
REN-KUN?
ARE YOU OKAY? CAN I COME IN?
...?
OH...? WHERE'D HE GO...?
Fwd

WHOOSH
UWAH... IT'S FREEZING!
I'LL GO GET THAT FLOOR PLAN FROM THE OUTBUILDING...
HM?

REN-KUN?
WHAT'S HE DOING...?
REN-KUN...?
!

REN-KUN!
AKIHIKO-SAN .?
ARE YOU OKAY? SHOULD I CALL AUNT AKIKO?
REN-KUN!
HEY, WHAT'S WRONG!?
. WHAT AM I DOING OUT HERE?
EH...?
NNN

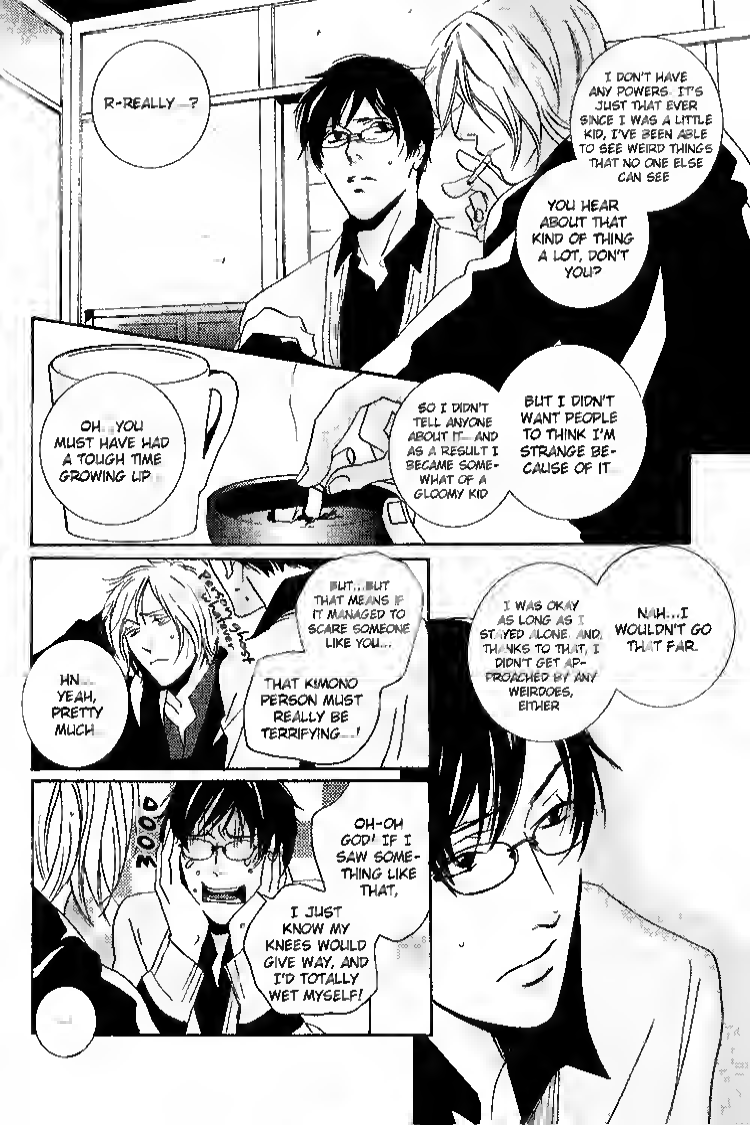
ARE...
ARE YOU ALRIGHT...?
...
...NO
...
HERE
LET ME CHECK THE THERMOMETER.
NH...
DID YOU GO TO THAT PLACE LAST NIGHT?
Gaze
You've got a fever
WHAT?

TN: Hand table
ARE YOU COLD?
COME ON, GET UNDER THE KOTATSU*
AREN'T YOU TIRED OUT? I'D BETTER CALL AUNT AKIKO, JUST IN CASE.
IT'S FINE. JUST LET ME STAY HERE
GRAB
WAH!
TELL ME!
DID YOU GO SEE THAT MAN AGAIN LAST NIGHT?
HUH?
YOU MEAN EITAROU-KUN?
YES, I DID, BUT—
HOLD ON...

WHY... WHY DOES THE THOUGHT OF EITAROU-KUN BOTHER YOU SO MUCH?
R...REN-KUN
I'M NOT BOTHERED
turn
ERM...?

...FORGET ABOUT THAT, THEN. WHAT REALLY HAPPENED?
WHY WERE YOU OUT IN THE COLD?
HN...
LAST NIGHT..
WHEN I CAME TO, YOU'D ALREADY DISAPPEARED
AND THEN, IT CAME.
WH-WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY IT?!
A GHOST IN A LONG-SLEEVED KIMONO
HUH...?
WH...WHAT WAS IT LIKE?
NH...
I FELT A REALLY EVIL VIBE OFF IT... LIKE IT HAD A BLACK AURA SURROUNDING IT.

IT REALLY SCARED ME.
WH-WHAT I MEAN, WHOSE GHOST WAS IT?
NO IDEA.
BUT I'M SURE THIS ONE'S THE HEAD HONCHO
HEAD HONCHO?
YOU KNOW, LIKE THE LAST BOSS IN GAMES.
WHO KNOWS, MAYBE IT'S EVEN THE ONE BEHIND THE CURSE.
ANYWAY, AFTER THAT ENCOUNTER MY BODY'S BEEN FEELING REALLY WEIRD...
YOU... YOU AREN'T POSSESSED, ARE YOU!?
DUNNO...
TH-THOSE SPECIAL POWERS OF YOURS... WHAT'S THEIR EXTENT?
REN-KUN...
..


R-REALLY...?
I DON'T HAVE ANY POWERS. IT'S JUST THAT EVER SINCE I WAS A LITTLE KID, I'VE BEEN ABLE TO SEE WEIRD THINGS THAT NO ONE ELSE CAN SEE
YOU HEAR ABOUT THAT KIND OF THING A LOT, DON'T YOU?
BUT I DIDN'T WANT PEOPLE TO THINK I'M STRANGE BECAUSE OF IT
SO I DIDN'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT IT... AND AS A RESULT I BECAME SOMEWHAT OF A GLOOMY KID
OH...YOU MUST HAVE HAD A TOUGH TIME GROWING UP
Pretty Ghost Hunter
BUT...BUT THAT MEANS IF IT MANAGED TO SCARE SOMEONE LIKE YOU...
THAT KIMONO PERSON MUST REALLY BE TERRIFYING...!
HN... YEAH, PRETTY MUCH
I WAS OKAY AS LONG AS I STAYED ALONE. AND, THANKS TO THAT, I DIDN'T GET APPROACHED BY ANY WEIRDOES, EITHER
NAH...I WOULDN'T GO THAT FAR.
OH-OH GOD! IF I SAW SOMETHING LIKE THAT,
I JUST KNOW MY KNEES WOULD GIVE WAY, AND I'D TOTALLY WET MYSELF!
MOO

ANYWAY.
DID YOU FIND OUT ANYTHING IN THE PAST?
AH! THAT'S RIGHT, WAIT HERE A SEC WHILE I GO GET IT!
WHAT'S THIS?
I THINK IT'S A FLOOR PLAN OF THE HOUSE.
THIS ISN'T MY FIELD, SO I CAN'T MAKE HEADS OR TAILS OF IT.
I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU KNOW THE BASICS OF ARCHITECTURE?
DO I LOOK LIKE I DO?
BUT I'M SURE THERE'S SOMETHING TO THIS...
ELSE IT WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN HIDDEN AWAY SO WELL. EITAROU-KUN WAS BOTHERED BY IT, TOO...
HMM...?
I'M GOING ON A QUICK TRIP BACK TO TOKYO.
I'LL TAKE THAT WITH ME AND DO SOME RESEARCH ON IT.

EH?
W-WELL, OF COURSE...
YOU'RE DEFINITELY COMING BACK AGAIN RIGHT?
HEY...
AKIHIKO-SAN.
...YOU REALLY SEEM FEVERISH YOU KNOW...
HM ?
WHOA?
CAN'T WE JUST ..
DIE TOGETHER ALREADY AND GET IT OVER WITH?
WHAT...?

WE'RE GOING TO DIE BEFORE LONG, ANYWAY...
NO MATTER WHAT WE DO.
I JUST KNOW IT...
TIME
IS RUNNING OUT...

beep
beep
beep
beep
beep
~~~~
O-OH MAN
THERE ARE JUST TOO MANY PEOPLE
wobble
I-I'VE GOT TO FIND SOMEWHERE TO REST
ACK!
JUMP
ODAGA-WAAA!
MI-MIYAKE ~~~
HUH?
WHAT'S UP WITH YOU?
~~~~

wet towel
YOU OKAY, MAN?
KIND OF...
EH?
IS IT ME, OR HAVE YOU LOST WEIGHT?
YEAH?
YOU JUST SEEM THINNER SOMEHOW, OR, WELL, KIND OF INSUBSTANTIAL?
clonk
I DON'T THINK SO. ALL I DID WAS EAT AND SLEEP. SO IF ANYTHING I SHOULD HAVE PILED ON THE POUNDS!
OH WELL, FORGET ABOUT IT.
SO, WHAT DID YOU NEED ME TO RESEARCH?
I THINK I'M MORE CUT OUT FOR THE QUIET LIFE...
I JUST GOT TOO USED TO THE PEACEFUL COUNTRY-SIDE
I THINK YOU MAY BE RIGHT...

HMM...
USUALLY, FARMERS BUILT THEIR HOUSES IN A DISTINCTIVE WAY.
DISTINCT-IVE?
YEAH. FOR EXAMPLE, THEY'D ARRANGE THE LAYOUT OF THE ROOMS IN THE SHAPE OF THE "RICE FIELD" KANJI.*
YOU SAID THE SAKAKI FAMILY START-ED OUT AS FARMERS, RIGHT?
YEAH
THERE DOES SEEM TO BE SOMETHING ODD ABOUT IT.
THIS IS OUTSIDE MY FIELD OF EXPERTISE, SO I CAN'T REALLY SAY, BUT...
REALLY?
I WONDER WHY THEY DID IT LIKE THAT.
MAYBE THERE WAS SOME UNDERLYING REASON...
HMM...
...COULD YOU LOOK INTO IT FOR ME?
BUT HERE, THE ROOMS ARE LAID OUT DIFFERENTLY, SEE.
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT...
IT WAS A WAY FOR THEM TO WISH FOR A GOOD HARVEST, YOU SEE
OH.
I SEE
Like a fractal shape

TN: A square divided into 4 田

I'LL SEE IF THERE'S ANY-ONE AT THE UNI DOING RESEARCH ON EDO-PERIOD ARCHITECTURE AND ASK THEM.
THANKS... COULD YOU LET ME KNOW AS SOON AS YOU FIND OUT ANYTHING?
OKAY...
301
ODAGAWA
CLICK
YIKES... I'D BETTER DO SOME TIDYING IN HERE
AH...
IT'S FROM REN-KUN..
WHEN ARE YOU COMING BACK? —REN—
HM?

I GUESS WE REALLY SHOULDN'T BE HAVING THIS KIND OF RELATIONSHIP...
mumble
mumble
I'LL BE BACK THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW, MAN-SENSEI
I MEAN, WE'RE COUSINS, AND BOTH MEN, AT THAT...
BESIDES, IF AUNTIE CAUGHT US SHE'D KILL ME...
I THINK
HE MUST JUST BE LONELY.
HE'S ALWAYS BEEN ON HIS OWN ...
AND NOW HE'S FOUND A COMRADE IN ME...
OTHERWISE, WHY WOULD HE EVER GO FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME... Haha...
GLITTER
splash
rustle
I'M SURE THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT.
WHAT A HEADACHE —.
DAMN—.

creak
MH...?
squeak
creak

THE LONG-SLEEVED KIMONO
GHOST...?
DID IT
FOLLOW ME HERE...?

Next, it's...
...'s turn...
WHAT...?
!

Fwshhh
UWARGH ...
Don't throw up
Don't throw up
WHAT THE HELL
Gasp Gasp
DID OUR ANCESTORS DO...?
NGH NNN
End of chapter 5

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Sleeping Moon
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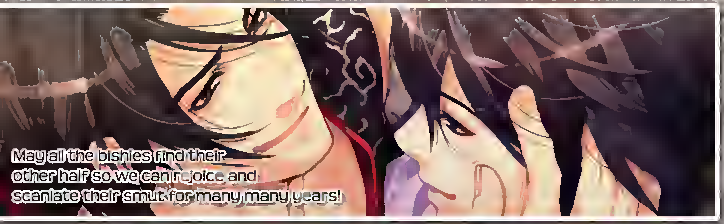

LIQUID PASSION AND BIBLO EROS STAFF WISHES YOU A HAPPY VALENTINE!

*TN: Literally, an ornamental three-legged stone lantern

OH, BEFORE I FORGET.
ANOTHER LETTER CAME FROM YOUR COLLEGE FRIEND IN TOKYO.
EH?
ANOTHER ONE?
JUST THROW THEM AWAY IN FUTURE
THEY'LL MAKE GOOD FUEL FOR THE COOKING STOVE.
WELL, I GUESS IT IS THE FIFTH ONE THIS MONTH
WHAT DO THEY ALL SAY?
NOTHING THAT'S FIT FOR A YOUNG LADY'S EARS.
SEE
ER~~~ WOW, I LOVE THE PATTERN ON YOUR KIMONO TODAY!
OH HONESTLY, DON'T TRY TO CHANGE THE SUBJECT!
THEY'RE NOT FROM A GIRL, ARE THEY...?
YOU SAID IT WAS A FRIEND FROM UNIVERSITY,
ER, WELL
Hmm?

UN-FORTUNATE-LY...
THEY'RE NOT FROM A GIRL, BUT A BOY
HUH!?
D-DON'T TELL ME...
THAT THIS GENTLEMAN HAS FEELINGS FOR YOU..?
FINE, I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT IT...
BUT IT'S NOT A VERY EXCITING STORY...
thu-dump
thu-dump
OKAY!
...AT UNI-VERSITY, HE AND I LIVED IN THE SAME BOARDING HOUSE.
THIS GUY, TACHIBANA...
TRUTH BE TOLD, THERE WAS ALWAYS SOME-THING SLIGHTLY EFFEMINATE ABOUT HIM.
THE OTHERS ALWAYS MADE FUN OF HIM BECAUSE OF IT...

OH, MY! ♡
HOW WONDERFUL! YOU'RE LIKE A KNIGHT OF JUSTICE!
I WOULDN'T GO THAT FAR..
WHEN THEY STARTED GETTING ROUGH WITH HIM, WELL, I COULDN'T HELP MYSELF...
COULDN'T HELP WHAT?
ER...
I KIND OF ENDED UP DEFENDING HIM FROM THE OTHERS.
My word!
ANYWAY.
WHEN I DID THAT, HE MUST HAVE GOTTEN THE WRONG IDEA...
AND BECOME ROMANTICALLY ATTACHED TO ME.
SO... WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN YOU AND THAT GENTLEMAN AFTER-WARDS?
OH, WELL...
PLEASE DON'T EVER MENTION THAT IN FRONT OF YOUR MOTHER
SHE'LL THINK I TOLD YOU I'D NEVER HEAR THE END OF IT.
slump
HEHE...
LIKE I'D EVER TELL HER!
WELL, ER... THAT'S THE LONG AND SHORT OF IT.
I'M REALLY SORRY ABOUT ALL OF THIS.
OH, I'M TOTALLY FINE! I KNOW ALL ABOUT SUCH THINGS
THERE WAS A KAGEMA TEAHOUSE* AROUND HERE UNTIL RECENT-LY. WASN'T THERE?

*T/N: Brothel for young male prostitutes

OH WOW!
BUT HE DIDN'T GIVE UP ON YOU AND KEEPS ON WRITING THOSE LETTERS EVEN NOW, HUH?
HE MADE A LOT OF ADVANCES, BUT...
I POLITELY TURNED HIM DOWN, SAYING THAT I PREFERRED GIRLS.
HAHA...
Oh my! A man's heart sure is complicated!
WELL...
YOU SHOULD HAVE GIVEN IN ONCE JUST FOR THE SAKE OF EXPERIENCE!
...?
HOW COME I THOUGHT OF AKIHIKO JUST NOW?
...
EITAROU-SAN?
IT'S NOT LIKE I'M TOTALLY OBLIVIOUS TO THE ATTRACTIONS OF OTHER MEN, BUT...
...I'M KIDDING!
YES!?
NNN

I FORGOT TO TELL YOU, MY BROTHER WAS LOOKING FOR YOU.
HE SAID IT WAS ABOUT SOME RESEARCH...
OH, I'D BETTER GO RIGHT AWAY THEN.
DID YOU...
FIND OUT ANYTHING ABOUT THAT CURSE?
NH...
WELL, THERE HAVE BEEN A COUPLE OF DEVELOP-MENTS...
MY BRO-THER'S NOT LOOKING TOO WELL THESE DAYS. I'M WORRIED.
HE'S ALREADY PAST THIRTY, AFTER ALL...
IT'S OKAY.
I'M SURE IT'S ALL JUST A SERIES OF COINCIDENCES.
WHAT...?
I MEAN...
THESE DAYS*, WE CAN EXPECT TO LIVE FOR ABOUT FORTY YEARS, SO...
IT'S NOT UNUSUAL FOR PEOPLE TO DIE AT A YOUNG AGE.
I...
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT.
*TN: The Edo era

...IT'LL BE FINE
DON'T WORRY
OKAY...
THERE'S NO WAY I COULD TELL HER THE TRUTH
I HAVE TO DO SOME-THING...
I HAVE TO AT LEAST SAVE AKIHIKO FROM THE CURSE
...AND SOON
I HAVE TO FIND THE CAUSE OF ALL THIS
clench

sigh
IT'S SNOWING AGAIN...
crunch
crunch
I WONDER IF HE'LL COME TONIGHT?
creak
HEY.
I'M ALMOST ACTING LIKE...

WHAT IS THIS, BOTAN DORO*?
I'M WAITING FOR MY BELOVED.
tinkle
*TN: Romantic and horrific stories about the consequences of loving a ghost.
creak
creak
slide
NOW THEN, LET'S SEE IF MY 'DEAREST'
WILL APPEAR BEFORE ME TONIGHT...?
Enjin
"The Stone Lantern"
End

Sleeping Moon
Look forward to volume 2!
Special Thanks
M-sama, T-san, Toki-sama

■この本を読んでのご意見、ご感想を
編集部までお寄せください。

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キャラ書集部気付「眠れる月①」係

CHARA COMICS

眠れる月①

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■初出一覧■

[眠れる月①]
幕一幕
Chara2月号（'08）
幕二幕
Chara4月号（'08）
幕三幕
Chara6月号（'08）
幕四幕
Chara10月号（'08）
幕五幕
Chara12月号（'08）

[番外編 雪灯籠]
幕き下ろし

[あとがき]
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Chara COMICS